



City of Billings Public Works Q&A on Flood Condition and Water Conservation June 15, 2022

1. Is my water from the City safe to drink?

Yes. Public Works assures the drinking water from the water treatment plant is safe to drink without a boil alert. Citizens will be alerted immediately if it changes.

2. How will citizens be notified if water isn't safe to drink?

Alerts will go out through CodeRED messaging which includes texts, phone calls, and emails, [City of Billings Facebook page](#), [Billings Public Works Facebook page](#), [City of Billings Twitter account](#), and [city website](#). We encourage everyone to help share with elderly neighbors as well. To sign up for CodeRED, please follow instructions on Yellowstone County website at www.yellowstonecountymt.gov/des/CodeRED.asp

3. Where can I get the latest and most accurate updates?

Please watch for updates on CodeRED messaging which includes texts, phone calls, and emails, [City of Billings Facebook page](#), [Billings Public Works Facebook page](#), [City of Billings Twitter account](#), and [city website](#). All traditional media outlets will also be notified so people can get that message everywhere. We encourage everyone to help share with elderly neighbors as well. To sign up for CodeRED, please follow instructions on Yellowstone County website at www.yellowstonecountymt.gov/des/CodeRED.asp

4. Are the high-water users such as golf courses, colleges, cemeteries, etc. been asked to stop using City water for the time being?

Yes, City officials and staff are personally contacting all of the city's biggest water users like the golf course, cemeteries, colleges, etc. and asking them to conserve water. All City operations have found ways to conserve water as well.

5. Was the water treatment plant shut down?

Yes, flooding on the Yellowstone River forced Public Works to shut down its water plant late Tuesday night, 6/14. The plant is back up Wednesday morning and running at very low capacity.

6. How much water does the City have before we run out?

The City has a day to a day-and-a-half of water supply for Billings.

7. What happens if we are out of City water completely?

City officials are optimistic about the Yellowstone cresting and the water level dropping according to National Weather Service latest information. That is why the City is asking all city water users to conserve water, specifically refrain from watering grass and using irrigation systems supplied by the city water plant.

8. When can we start using City water again?

The City of Billings will alert citizens as soon as water usage can return to normal. The river needs to be at 15 feet or below for the plant to operate effectively. Even after the river dips below 15 feet,

the plant still has the task of cleaning filters to properly operate. Please be ready to conserve water for a few days.

9. Why wasn't the Public immediately notified when the water plant was shut down?

The City didn't know if we would have a solution within a couple of hours, or if the situation would last much longer. We didn't want to alert the community if things were going to get back up and running shortly after. But once it was confirmed that the plant wouldn't be able to return to full operation, that is when we alerted the community.